

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 2, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 3, 5, 9, 11-15, 17 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants kindly acknowledge the allowance of claims 2, 4 and 6. Claims 2-6, 9 and 11-20 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 5, 9, 11-14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. And, claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 are objected to. Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggested claim amendments. Applicants have amended the claims of the application. Accordingly, the rejections and objections are overcome. Withdrawal of the rejections and objections are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 09/660,186
Amdt. dated October 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated June 2, 2005

Docket No.:8733.298.00

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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